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ABSTRACT

Noting that law-related education (LRE) instills in its practitioners a strong desire to share its message with the world, this technical bulletin outlines the international activities of several LRE organizations. The Center for Civic Education hosts international visiting scholars, sponsors an annual conference that alternates between sites in Germany and the United States, and provides technical support to countries such as Nicaragua and Poland. The Chicago-based, women-managed, nonprofit organization Heartland International has promoted civic education programs in Ethiopia, Namibia, Uganda, and Tanzania. The American Federation of Teachers International Affairs Department created the Education for Democracy Clearinghouse in 1993 to collect and disseminate information about civic education programs worldwide. The Mershon Center at The Ohio State University has been involved in the Education for Democratic Citizenship in Poland Project since 1991 and has been invited to develop programs in Lithuania, Bulgaria, Albania, and Russia. The National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law (NICEL) has been involved in projects on four continents, Asia, Europe, Africa, and South America. For the future, NICEL proposes the Citizens Education Democracy Corps, comprised of recent alumni from U.S. graduate schools in the fields of law, education, and the humanities. A list of contact persons for each agency is provided. (JD)

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Planting International Seeds

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Bulletin

American Bar Association *Special Committee on Youth Education for Citizenship* *$1.50*

Planting International Seeds

by Paula Nessel

Law-related education (LRE) instills in its practitioners a strong desire to share its message with the world. Some organizations are bringing LRE and citizenship education to countries where it has not existed before, countries undergoing radical changes in their political and educational systems—the new democracies.

The need is great but their enthusiasm is contagious. A variety of organizations and programs are trying to fill the gap. While much of the outreach is funded through grants, a significant amount is reallocated from organizations' and individuals' budgets.

This bulletin tells who is doing what, where, and gives our readers an opportunity to understand the excitement and to get involved.

Center for Civic Education

The Center for Civic Education (CCE) has hosted international visiting scholars for years, largely prompted by the international publicity received by their publications such as *CIVITAS, We the People,* and *Law in a Free Society. CIVITAS* has been translated into Georgian and other languages, and CCE has waived the copyright for the use of their materials in other countries. CCE staff have been invited to provide technical assistance in countries such as Nicaragua and Poland. Since 1991, they have held an annual international conference, alternating between sites in Germany and the United States. The conference has grown from 35 to 60 participants over the years and now attracts significant representation from Eastern Europe, the Baltic States and Russia.

Heartland International

For the past two years, Heartland International, a women-managed nonprofit organization based in Chicago, has been involved in a civic education program for Ethiopia, Namibia, Uganda, and Tanzania. They began with a three-week study mission for educators, policy planners and curriculum developers from Ethiopia, Uganda and Namibia. Participants learned about civic education, and they were introduced to scope and sequence models and examples of instructional materials, resources and CCE's *CIVITAS*. Next, they presented two-day in-country seminars on civic education to education policy planners, curriculum developers, administrators and leaders of nongovernmental organizations. Most recently, they have established Centers for the Promotion of Democracy in Ethiopia, Namibia and Uganda; expanded the program into Tanzania; and offered internships in the United States for Center Fellows.

American Federation of Teachers

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) International Affairs Department promotes civic education through collaborations with organizations in America, the Czech Republic, Nicaragua, and Poland. In addition, AFT created the Education for Democracy Clearinghouse in 1993 with a grant from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), an independent foundation established and funded by the U.S. Congress. By 1993, the clearinghouse collected and disseminated information about more than 200 civic education programs worldwide, and the number is growing.

In 1992, the Education Foundation for AFT met with the Center for Civic Education, Freedom House, Mershon Center, and Social Studies Development Center of Indiana University in Washington, D.C., to exchange information on their respective activities and seek ways to cooperate. The consortium is developing a pamphlet titled *Universal Framework for Teaching Democracy,* which will suggest a model civics curriculum. An international panel of democracy activists reviewed the first draft, and final copies were published in 1993.

Their program in Nicaragua is a three-year collaboration with the Ministry of Education, also funded by an NED grant. The project aims to work with a commission of Nicaraguan educators and community representatives to (1) develop a curriculum framework for democratic education, (2) train a corps of 24 "master teachers" to develop innovative classroom

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activities based on the curriculum framework and act as resource people for secondary school civics teachers, and (3) develop materials such as *Democracy Reader,* a kit of basic classroom activities and lesson plans, and the *Handbook on Democratic Teaching Techniques.*

Mershon Center

The Mershon Center at The Ohio State University has been involved in the "Education for Democratic Citizenship in Poland" project since 1991 and has been invited to develop programs in Lithuania, Bulgaria, Albania, and Russia. Dr. Richard C. Remy at Ohio State and Dr. Jacek Strzemieczny at the Polish Ministry of National Education codirect the project, while Dr. John J. Patrick, Professor of Education and Director of the Social Studies Development Center at Indiana University, and Dr. Kazimeirz Slomczynski at Ohio State serve as senior consultants.

The original activities in Poland included:

- Curriculum Guides developed for *Building a Foundation for Civic Education.* Funded by NED, this program was developed by Polish educators working with U.S. scholars. They present instructional objectives and content outlines for primary and high school civics courses. The guides are being distributed nationally.

- Primary School Civics Course titled "Citizenship for Democracy." Based on the curriculum guides and funded by the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), the course was developed by Polish primary school educators while in residence at the Mershon Center. The course consists of student and teacher materials for grades 6-8. It is being reviewed and tested in Poland, and it will eventually reach 600,000 students each year.

- Undergraduate College Course (pre-service teacher education) titled "Schools and Democratic Society." Funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts and developed by Polish university professors in residence at the Mershon Center, this two-semester syllabus describes how democratic principles apply to schools' organization and operation.

- Network of Five Centers for Civic and Economic Education in Warsaw, Gdansk, Krakow, Lublin, and Wroclaw. Funded by NED, the centers will provide in-service teacher training on democracy and free market economics. They will also create libraries of resource materials, conduct public education programs, and serve as connecting points between Polish and American educators.

- International Conference on Civic Education in Warsaw in December 1993. Funded by the Polish Ministry, Mershon, USIA, and the Pew Charitable Trusts, the conference shared information about the project with educators and scholars throughout Poland, and encouraged the exchange of ideas on civic education. American scholars and educators, and observers from several Central and Eastern Europe countries, participated as well.

With a number of successes behind them, LRE educators are investigating new activities:

- Society for Civic Education was created by Polish teachers who were former residents at Mershon. The professional society for people interested in civic education began with startup funds from Mershon Center. The society plans to hold meetings, facilitate in-service training and sponsor instructional materials development projects. It also hopes to link educators with similar organizations in other nations.

- A "Close-Up" look at Polish politics and government, *"Civis Polonus,"* is a program similar to America's "Presidential Classroom" and "Close-Up." Polish students and teachers will travel to Warsaw to meet government leaders and observe democratic political activities. USIA and the World Bank will provide startup funds.

- A book for educators and policymakers, *Civic Education for Democracy: Lessons from Poland,* is being funded by the Mershon Center. The book will contain original essays by Polish and American scholars analyzing the conceptual, educational, and policy implications of the "Education for Democratic Citizenship in Poland" project.

Bulletin

American Bar Association Special Committee on Youth Education for Citizenship

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The Mershon Center is seeking funds for a secondary school course on constitutional democracy and market economics to complement and extend the primary school course. Funds are also needed for collaborative research on civic education, political socialization and democratization, and a nationwide program to train school administrators about the applications of democratic principles in the operation and organization of public schools.

In Russia, the Mershon Center and the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences are preparing materials for scholars and educators on the philosophical foundation of democratic civil society. They plan to publish a book of essays by American and Russian scholars, create curriculum materials based on the essays, and hold a series of summer institutes for Russian university professors who teach political philosophy at the graduate level.

In collaboration with AFT, Mershon is proposing a Moscow project that includes an in-service conference on teaching about democracy, a series of six workshops for teachers on basic principles of democracy, and curriculum development.

NICEL

The National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law (NICEL—pronounced 'ni'ke l') has been involved in projects on four continents: Asia—the Philippines; Europe—Hungary and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic; South America—Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia and Guatemala; and Africa—Lesotho, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia, and South Africa.

In South America, Project Director Ana Isabel Sanchez has coordinated a program titled "Public Legal Education (PLE): A Democratic Initiative for Latin America." San Juan, Puerto Rico, hosted the first Latin American Conference in October 1993. Participants from Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia and Guatemala were introduced to NICEL's new curriculum for conflict resolution training, *We Can Work It Out*. There are plans to translate the book into Spanish.

During the past two years, NICEL, its affiliated Georgetown University Law Center, and Catholic University in Santiago have collaborated on a pilot project involving law students who draft and field-test lessons for secondary schools, youth detention institutions and substance abuse rehabilitation group homes. Funded by NED, the project also will include a new civics curriculum and a teacher's guide for infusing law and human rights subjects into the current civics curriculum. Lesson plans using LRE techniques will accompany a set of videotapes on common legal problems.

NICEL's involvement in South Africa was initiated by an invitation from David McQuoid-Mason, dean of the law faculty at the University of Natal. NICEL Co-director Ed O'Brien began a series of trips in 1985 and saw the South Africa Street Law Program grow to national prominence under Director Mandla McHunu at University of Natal (Durban) and coordinators at all 14 university law schools. Following the NICEL/Georgetown University model, law students receive academic credit for teaching in the high schools. Funding is provided primarily by the Attorneys Fidelity Fund and sponsored by the Association of Law Societies (ALS). Additional support has been received from Mobil SA, Goldfields, US AID and local sponsors.

The program includes many interactive components. Beginning in 1985, an annual space colony simulation for high school students has taken place in Durban. Students of all races interact to represent fictitious countries in writing a constitution for an outer space colony. In a similar program, teams from each of four provinces (not individual schools) have participated in a national mock trial competition for the past six years, presided over by "Supreme Court" judges or advocates. NICEL-trained paralegals teach rural South Africans about human rights by using simplified materials drawn from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (published in both English and Zulu). The Green Street Law program combines practical law and environmental awareness during wilderness outings for interracial groups of children from disadvantaged communities.

To get the message out, organizers and educators use various media targeted at specific audiences. A South African Street Law magazine for youth titled *Streetwize*, for instance, features Max Mboya, the African Street Lawyer, to popularize the law-related lessons. In 1991 *Max Mboya, the African Street Lawyer* appeared on Zulu TV in a 13-part television series educating viewers about the law and discussing his clients' cases. Less glamorous, but also important, a video describing the aims and activities of the Street Law program was produced in 1991.

To supplement and generate ideas for the LRE pool of information, Professor David McQuoid-Mason wrote a number of Street Law books, both student texts and teacher guides:

- *An Introduction to South African Law and the Legal System*
- *Criminal Law and Juvenile Justice*
- *Consumer Law*
- *Family Law*
- *Welfare and Housing Law*
- *Employment Law*

In addition, NICEL and Lawyers for Human Rights in South Africa jointly developed *Human Rights for All*, a book that will be published in America sometime this year.

Elsewhere in Africa, NICEL selected teams of lawyers, educators and community activists from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Malawi for a month-long visit to the United States early in 1994. NICEL hosted the teams in Washington, D.C., where they attended the American Bar Association's National Law-Related Education Leadership Seminar. Participants then visited Barbara Miller at the Colorado Legal Education Project

Education Project and Margaret Armancas-Fisher at the University of Puget Sound Institute for Citizen Education in the Law (UPSICEL) in Washington State. In June, the teams were joined by second teams from each country to attend a training seminar in Nairobi, Kenya.

Looking to the future, NICEL is proposing the Citizens Education Democracy Corps, comprised of recent alumni from U.S. graduate schools in the fields of law, education and the humanities. After training, corps members would live and work at least one year in emerging democracies and teach about the law, human rights and democratic values. Recruitment of corps members would be enhanced by forgiving part of their federal student loans.

Contacts

Whether or not a Citizens Education Democracy Corps is established, there will continue to be individual and organizational interest in spreading LRE to new places. If you want to learn more about the programs outlined here, use the contact list below. If you have information about an outreach effort not listed, send it to ABA/YEFC (address on page 2) for inclusion in the National Law-Related Education Resource Center database.

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